

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 06739 240952Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03  
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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4121

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

UNCLAS CANBERRA 6739

SECDEF FOR ISA

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, MILI, PEPR, AS

SUBJ: KILLEN REPLIES TO QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT ON NORTH WEST CAPE

1. DEFENCE MINISTER KILLEN PROVIDED WRITTEN REPLIES TO A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE ON THE NORTH WEST CAPE NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS STATION AUGUST 22, 1978. COMPLETE TEXT OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IS BEING POUCHED TO ALL ADDRESSEES. BELOW, HOWEVER, ARE SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT AMONG THEM.

2. KILLEN SAID, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION ABOUT WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY WITHIN ADOD IT IS TO BRIEF THE GOA, "THE GOVERNMENT TAKES THE VIEW THAT INFORMATION NEEDING THE POLICY ATTENTION OF THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE CONVEYED BY THE US THROUGH NORMAL POLICY CHANNELS RATHER  
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PAGE 02 CANBER 06739 240952Z

THAN THROUGH MILITARY OPERATIONAL CHANNELS."

Q: "WAS THE AUSTRALIAN JOINT INTELLIGENCE ORGANISATION AWARE OF THE USG PROPOSAL TO ALTER THE FACILITIES AT NORTH WEST CAPE?"

A: "NO USG PROPOSAL TO ALTER FACILITIES AT NORTH WEST CAPE HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT."

Q: WERE TENDERS FOR TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT LET IN AUGUST 77 AND FUNDS FOR ITS INSTALLATION AT NORTH WEST CAPE APPROVED BY THE US CONGRESS IN 1977?

A: IN MARCH 1978 THE USG ENTERED INTO CONTRACTS FOR PRODUCTION OF MSC-61 SATELLITE GROUND TERMINALS FOR INTERNATIONAL USE. NO FUNDS FOR INSTALLATION OF A MSC-61 TERMINAL AT NORTH WEST CAPE HAVE BEEN APPROPRIATED BY THE US CONGRESS.

Q: WHO IN ADOD IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MONITORING AND REPORTING UPON HEARINGS OF DEFENSE MATTERS BEFORE US CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES AND SUBCOMMITTEES?

A: THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT RELY UPON MONITORING SOME 21 SENATE COMMITTEES, 114 SUBCOMMITTEES, AND 33 HOUSE COMMITTEES AND 183 SUBCOMMITTEES HOLDING AN AVERAGE OF 20 TO 25 HEARINGS A DAY TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT ADMINISTRATION PROPOSALS WHICH ARE CAPABLE OF BEING CONVEYED BY THE US GOVERNMENT DIRECT TO THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT.

Q: IS THE NEW AN/MSC-61 SATELLITE TERMINAL PART OF THE US INTELLIGENCE AND CONTROL SYSTEM? DID US INTELLIGENCE SOURCES INFORM AUSTRALIAN INTELLIGENCE OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES AND THEIR ADVANTAGES? IF JIO WAS NOT INFORMED WILL THE MINISTER FOR DEFENCE INSURE THAT NEW PROCEDURES ARE INSTITUTED IN ORDER THAT AUSTRALIAN INTELLIGENCE CAN BE AWARE OF NEW INITIATIVES AND DEVELOPMENTS IMMEDIATELY THEY COMMENCE?

A: AN AN/MSC-61 SATELLITE TERMINAL, IF INSTALLED AT HAROLD E.  
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 CANBER 06739 240952Z

HOLT, WOULD FORM A PART OF THE DEFENSE SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM. WITH RESPECT TO THE QUESTION OF WHETHER US INTELLIGENCE SOURCES INFORMED AUSTRALIAN INTELLIGENCE OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES, NO USG PROPOSAL TO ALTER THE FACILITIES AT NORTH WEST CAPE HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT. FINALLY, THAT ANSWERS THE QUESTION AS WELL AS TO WHETHER PROCEDURES WILL BE INSTITUTED TO INSURE THAT AUSTRALIAN INTELLIGENCE BE AWARE OF ANY INITIATIVES AND DEVELOPMENTS.

" THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THAT WHERE US TECHNICAL PLANNING IN RESPECT OF HAROLD E. HOLT BEARS ACTUALLY OR POTENTIALLY UPON THE POLICY CONCERNS OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT THE FACT OF THAT PLANNING SHOULD BE BROUGHT DIRECTLY AND IN A TIMELY WAY TO THE ATTENTION OF THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE DEPARTMENT THROUGH AGREED AND DESIGNATED US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE POLICY CHANNELS. THESE DO NOT INCLUDE INTELLIGENCE CHANNELS. IMPROVED PROCEDURES TO MEET THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S NEEDS ARE AT PRESENT UNDER DETAILED DISCUSSION WITH US AUTHORITIES."

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## Message Attributes

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Sheryl P. Walter  
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